

Corny Criminals

Here's another part in our series on good, bad and funny criminals.

Officer Stolen

Thief steals police officer.

"He was supposed to deter criminals, but now he's gone... forever," said a police spokesperson after a thief stole a **life-sized cardboard cut-out** of a policeman. Police say the cardboard replica, known as PC Bob Molloy, had been



doing a great job of **detering shoplifters** in supermarkets. Thefts had fallen from 36 per month to just one since PC Molloy's 2D presence was introduced two years ago. The cut-out, which cost £100 to produce, has been **rotated** between stores in a number of towns. It shows PC Molloy in full uniform and with **arms folded**. It looks so life-like that some shoppers have even tried to talk to the cardboard **copper**.

But police may yet **have the last laugh** as the theft was captured by CCTV cameras,

and they are confident of making an arrest. Video footage shows the thief paying for his groceries, then walking off with PC Molloy **tucked under his arm**.

Party Crasher

Escaped convict joins police party.

"I really couldn't believe my eyes, since the man was the criminal we were **seeking**," said a police officer who **spotted** an escaped criminal at a barbecue party at the local police station. Police in Xinzhu city, Taiwan, had invited residents to celebrate the **Moon Festival** with them. Many took up the kind offer, including an escaped **drug-dealer** called Chen, who had just been listed as one of the city's most-wanted criminals. Police officer Cai Zhengtong, who was in charge of the barbecue, said, "I saw a man dressed in an **eye-catching** yellow jacket enter the place and sit in the corner. He seemed to be familiar, so I asked a colleague about it, and he said, 'That's Chen – the man we're looking for.'" Police at the party quickly arrested the criminal. "I thought a police barbecue would be the last place police would look for me," Chen said. ☺



GLOSSARY

- life-sized** *adj*
the same size as the thing in real life
- a cardboard cut-out** *n*
an image of someone/something that has been cut from card (thick paper)
- to deter** *vb*
if an object "deters" you from doing something, it stops you from doing that thing
- a shoplifter** *n*
a person who steals from a shop
- to rotate** *vb*
if an object is "rotated", it is moved from place A to place B, and the object in place B is moved to place A
- folded arms** *n*
with your arms in front of your body and with one on top of the other
- a copper** *n* *inform*
a police officer
- to have the last laugh** *exp*
to be the one who laughs in the end; not to be the victim in the end
- to tuck something under your arm** *exp*
to put something under your arm in order to keep it safe
- to seek** *vb*
to look for
- to spot** *vb*
to see; to notice
- the Moon Festival** *n*
a Chinese festival celebrated in autumn
- a drug-dealer** *n*
a person who buys and sells illegal drugs
- eye-catching** *adj*
that makes you look at it because it is so different/attractive/colourful, etc



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